



2021

Concordia University Chicago

Doctoral Hooding Ceremony | May 7, 2021

Truth ~ Freedom ~ Vocation

*"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,
and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." –John 8:31-32*



VIRTUAL DOCTORAL HOODING PROGRAM

WELCOME

Kevin Borchers, PhD
University Marshal

Russell Dawn, DPhil
University President

INVOCATION

Jeffrey Leininger, MDiv, MPhil, PhD
University Pastor

VIRTUAL DOCTORAL HOODING PRESENTATION

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Deaconess Kristin Wassilak, MA
Interim Dean

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Claudia Santin, EdD
Dean

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Maja Miskovic, PhD
Interim Associate Dean of the College of Graduate Studies

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Maja Miskovic, PhD
Interim Associate Dean

CLOSING REMARKS

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

College of Arts and Sciences Doctor of Philosophy

Amy Allnutt

Health and Human Performance

Dissertation Title: *A Cross-Sectional Study Examining Weight Bias Attitudes and Obesity Beliefs Among Undergraduate Students*

Dissertation Committee: Dayna Alexander, Chair; Daniel Smith, William Torrence

Jennifer Arnold

Health and Human Performance

Dissertation Title: *Virtual Reality and Mental Skills to Enhance Cadet Performance*

Dissertation Committee: William Torrence, Chair; Daniel Smith, Garrett Beatty

Blair Carsone

Health and Human Performance

Dissertation Title: *Occupational Therapy Intervention and Beery VMI Scores of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Brachial Plexus Injury, and Cerebral Palsy*

Dissertation Committee: Katherine Green, Chair; William Torrence, Bridgett Henry

Christopher Jacquard

Health and Human Performance

Dissertation Title: *HRV Coherence Biofeedback Training and Sleep Duration in a Law Enforcement Population*

Dissertation Committee: William Torrence, Chair; John Schwartz, Arthur Safer

Jeff Monaco

Health and Human Performance

Dissertation Title: *The Effects of a 12-Week Body Transformation Challenge and Personal Training on Exercise Frequency and Adherence of New Gym Members – An Analysis*

Dissertation Committee: Bridget Melton, Chair; Helen Bland, Malinda Teague

Thomas Schwartz

Health and Human Performance

Dissertation Title: *Indices of Aerobic Power and Stamina in Middle-Distance Running*

Dissertation Committee: Michael Thomas, Chair; Jeffrey Messer, Kun Li

Thomas Solecki

Health and Human Performance

Dissertation Title: *Perceptions of College Athletes' Healthy Eating and the Effects on Mood, Perceived Stress, and Performance Recovery*

Dissertation Committee: William Torrence, Chair; Amanda Mulcahy, Ronald Wagner

Julie Ulery

Health and Human Performance

Dissertation Title: *Nutrition Supplement Use Among Adult Recreational Runners: What Influences Runners' Consumption?*

Dissertation Committee: Bridget Melton, Chair; Helen Bland, Amy Jo Riggs

Brandi Walker

Health and Human Performance

Dissertation Title: *The Effects of Varying Rest Intervals on Jump Height and Peak Power*

Dissertation Committee: William Torrence, Chair; Helen Bland, John Wagle

Jeffrey Williams

Health and Human Performance

Dissertation Title: *Assessment of Dynamic, Unilateral Asymmetry Scores as an Indicator to Diminished Bilateral Strength 1RM Scores in Olympic Weightlifters*

Dissertation Committee: William Torrence, Chair; Daniel Smith, Michael Thomas

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

College of Business Doctor of Business Administration

Ahmed Montasser Sayed Abdalbaqi

Business Administration

Dissertation Title: *A Qualitative Study for Crisis Management Strategies Used by Small Business Leaders*

Dissertation Committee: Charlene Dunfee, Chair; Kristen Moore, Paul Brower

Khaled Alharahsheh

Business Administration

Dissertation Title: *Relationship between Ownership Concentration and Dividend Policy in Jordanian Capital Market*

Dissertation Committee: Roberto Castaneda, Chair; Daniel Mays, Dana Sendziol

Imad Ramadan

Business Administration

Dissertation Title: *The Association Between Accounting Disclosures and Transparency and Investors' Confidence*

Dissertation Committee: Roberto Castaneda, Chair; Daniel Mays, Apostolos Xanthopoulos

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

College of Business Doctor of Education

Alex Anderson

Leadership: Sports Management Administration

Dissertation Title: *Exploration of Student-Athletes' College Choice at Small, Private NCAA Division I Institutions*

Dissertation Committee: Elizabeth Brennan, Chair; Mary Ball Brant, Sandra Svoboda

Michael Birmingham Sr.

Organizational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Identifying Campus Locations' Contributions To The Perception of Safety*

Dissertation Committee: Rayshawn Eastman, Chair; Anne Grey, Gail Stephens

Denair Thomas

Organizational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Teachers' Perceptions of the Use of Computer-Assisted Instruction to Teach Academics to Students with Level 1 Autism in the Middle Grades*

Dissertation Committee: David Kluth, Chair; Elizabeth Owolabi, Bridgett Henry

Jason Wenschlag

Organizational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *35 Days: An Autoethnography of Change Leadership Following a School Tragedy*

Dissertation Committee: Katherine Green, Chair; Maja Miskovic, Donna Blaess

Michael Williams

Organizational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *How Out of School Time Programs at Field-based Science Institutions Impact STEM Pathway Choices: Urban Minority Youth and Underrepresented STEM Fields*

Dissertation Committee: Marlon Cummings, Chair; Hilton Kelly, Pamela Konkol

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

College of Business Doctor of Philosophy

Cynthia Davis

Leadership: Sports Management Administration

Dissertation Title: *A Generic Qualitative Study from Softball Coaches' Perspectives: Spectators' Behaviors on the Diamond*

Dissertation Committee: Suzanne Lawrence, Chair; Jeffrey Eyanson, Robert Mechikoff

Elisabeth Dellegrazie

Organizational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Internationalization of Business Curriculum: Global Competence and Global Citizenship*

Dissertation Committee: Donna Blaess, Chair; Steve Song, Kathryn Hollywood

Troy Hoekstra

Organizational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Stakeholders' Perceptions of Inefficiencies in Commercial Construction and Development Projects in the Midwestern United States*

Dissertation Committee: Elizabeth Brennan, Chair; Mary Ball Brant, Donald Comi

Stephanie Lovingood

Leadership: Sports Management Administration

Dissertation Title: *Front Office Mothers in the Business of Professional Sport: Navigating Motherhood and Career*

Dissertation Committee: Kathryn Hollywood, Chair; Rekha Rajan, Donna Blaess

Larissa Miller

Organizational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Compassion Fatigue and Nursing Faculty: Are Students Involved?*

Dissertation Committee: William Spears, Chair; Daniel Smith, Arthur Safer

Phillip Norman

Leadership: Sports Management Administration

Dissertation Title: *The Impact of Intercollegiate Football Participation on Academic Achievement*

Dissertation Committee: Donna Blaess, Chair; Michael Hardy, Scott Leman

Debra Reed

Organizational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Exploration of Aspects of Strategic Leadership that are Unique to Nonprofit Organizations*

Dissertation Committee: Kathryn Hollywood, Chair; Rekha Rajan, Elizabeth Brennan

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

College of Graduate Studies Doctor of Education

Timothy Baker

School Leadership

Dissertation Title: *The Impact of an Emergent Discipline Culture on Teacher Perceptions of School Climate*

Dissertation Committee: Pamela Konkol, Chair; Peter Sullivan, Christopher Esposito

Scott Bramley

School Leadership

Dissertation Title: *School Leaders' Perceptions of School Climate*

Dissertation Committee: Paul Sims, Chair; Angela Tagaris, Glenn Schlichting

Tiffany Burnett

School Leadership

Dissertation Title: *The Road Not Yet Taken: White Teachers' Perspectives on Culturally Responsive Teaching*

Dissertation Committee: Christopher Esposito, Chair; Pamela Konkol, Ebonyse Mead

Cathy Coleman

Higher Education Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Administrator Perceptions of Teacher Attrition Prior to COVID-19: A Case Study*

Dissertation Committee: Dannelle Stevens, Chair; Elizabeth Owolabi, Thomas Bailey

Marc Evans

School Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Teachers' Perceptions of High-stakes Testing - Preparing Students for a Test or Preparing Students for Life?*

Dissertation Committee: Mary Zaharis, Chair; Angela Tagaris, Arthur Safer

Suzanne Garcia

Educational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Attending Anyway: A Qualitative Case Study of the Intersections of Family Stress, School Climate, and School Attendance Choices within a Northeast Urban High School*

Dissertation Committee: Katherine Green, Chair; Rekha Rajan, Kathryn Hollywood

Valerie Hoose

Teacher Leadership

Dissertation Title: *How Elementary (K-5) Teachers' Mindset Effect Classroom Environments*

Dissertation Committee: Christopher Maddox, Chair; John Lupinacci, Victoria Hansen

Geneine Morris

Educational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *The Role of Black Sisters in Servant Leadership in the USA*

Dissertation Committee: Paul Sims, Chair; Angela Tagaris, Arthur Safer

Braulio Navarro

Educational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *How Principals of New York City Urban High Schools Address the Unique Needs of Students Who are Homeless*

Dissertation Committee: Arthur Safer, Chair; Mary Ball Brant, Robert Wilhite

Danielle Penn-Lusby

School Leadership

Dissertation Title: *To Be Right or To Be in Relationship: Exploring the Experiences of Staff During the Implementation of Restorative Practices at a Suburban High School*

Dissertation Committee: Pamela Konkol, Chair; Evelyn Nedderman, Arthur Safer

Sean Rabiola

Educational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Exploring Educators' Multidimensional Attitudes and Self-Efficacy Toward Inclusive Education*

Dissertation Committee: William Spears, Chair; Kathleen Hibbert, Arthur Safer

Crystal Ross

Higher Education Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Teacher Turnover in a Texas Public School: A Case Study*

Dissertation Committee: Libi Shen, Chair; Joan McGarry, John D'Aguzzo

Samora Rugumamu

Teacher Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Effective Science Teaching Strategies for ESL/EFL Students: A Case Study*

Dissertation Committee: Libi Shen, Chair; John D'Aguzzo, Genelle Morris

William Stanton

School Leadership

Dissertation Title: *The Effects of Professional Learning Communities on Collective Teacher Efficacy*

Dissertation Committee: Paul Sims, Chair; Mary Ball Brant, Arthur Safer

Bridgette Stuart

Higher Education Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Parents' Experiences with Promoting the Academic Success of Middle School Children in Low-Socioeconomic Schools*

Dissertation Committee: Andrea Silverstein, Chair; Judy Shoemaker, Dion Jones

Lori Tucker

Curriculum & Instruction

Dissertation Title: *Teachers' Perceptions of Using Data to Inform Instruction: A Mixed Methods Approach*

Dissertation Committee: Christopher Lilly, Chair; Mary Ball Brant, Joan McGarry

Tamara Wallace

School Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Remote Learning in the Time of Crisis: The Perceptions of Elementary Teachers in Developing Social Presence, Cognitive Presence and Teaching Presence*

Dissertation Committee: Rebecca Hornberger, Chair; Angela Tagaris, Paul Sims

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

College of Graduate Studies Doctor of Philosophy

Juanita Adeoye

School Leadership

Dissertation Title: *The Unspoken Wound: A Qualitative Study of Educators' Adverse Childhood Experiences*

Dissertation Committee: Maja Miskovic, Chair; Mary Crabtree, Kathy Bonnar

Samantha Alaimo

School Leadership

Dissertation Title: *The Impact of the Implementation of Tier I Social Emotional Learning Programming on Skill Mastery and School Environment in an Illinois Middle School*

Dissertation Committee: Paul Sims, Chair; Daniel Smith, Glenn Schlichting

Noha Almazroo

Curriculum & Instruction

Dissertation Title: *Computer Science Teachers' Perspectives Regarding Their Knowledge, Beliefs, and Practice of Brain-Based Learning Strategies in Saudi Arabia*

Dissertation Committee: Jenna Nelson, Chair; John Schwartz, Mohamed Elnatour

Afrah Alobra

Curriculum & Instruction

Dissertation Title: *Perspectives of High School Teachers for Adding Art Education as a Mandatory Class in Saudi Arabia Secondary Schools*

Dissertation Committee: William Spears, Chair; Angela Tagaris, Arthur Safer

Ahmed Alomair

Educational Technology: Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Saudi Arabian University Students' Perceptions of Engagement and Self-directed Learning when using Smartphones*

Dissertation Committee: Andrea Dinaro, Chair; Hayal Kackar-Cam, Kathryn Wozniak

Ohud Mohammed O Alshamsan

Special Education Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Saudi teachers' perceptions of their knowledge and responsibility about the special education principles in Saudi Vision 2030*

Dissertation Committee: Andrea Dinaro, Chair; Hayal Kackar-Cam, John Schwartz

Elizabeth Burke

Teacher Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge and Classroom Technology Use: A Mixed Methods Study*

Dissertation Committee: Lucy Ozvat, Chair; Joseph Dusek, Adam Hiebel

David Freed

Educational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *International School Principals' Insights and Experiences with Teacher Motivation*

Dissertation Committee: Paul Sims, Chair; Angela Tagaris, Rebecca Hornberger

Junior Hernandez

Educational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Teachers' Perceptions of Integrating Digital Technology Tools*

Dissertation Committee: Andrea Silverstein, Chair; Tamara Korenman, Ardelle Pate

Byron Lyons

School Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Principals' Perceptions of Leading with Emotional Intelligence in Urban School Settings*

Dissertation Committee: Paul Sims, Chair; Angela Tagaris, Rebecca Hornberger

Dori MacMillan

School Leadership: Initial Leader

Dissertation Title: *Educators' Experiences and Use of Alternative Approaches in Place of Exclusionary Discipline*

Dissertation Committee: Lucy Ozvat, Chair; Alison Clark, Arthur Safer

Sara Meeks

Special Education Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Teacher Perspectives Regarding the Use of Restorative Justice Practices for Students with Disabilities in an Urban High School Setting*

Dissertation Committee: William Spears, Chair; Angela Tagaris, Arthur Safer

Elizabeth Miesch

Reading, Language & Literacy

Dissertation Title: *Navigating Dyslexia from Kindergarten to College: A Study of Parents' Individual Narratives*

Dissertation Committee: Elena Lyutykh, Chair; Jie Lin, Kari Pawl

Bradford Mitchell

Educational Technology: Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Mindset and Online Learning Performance of Secondary Students*

Dissertation Committee: Ardelle Pate, Chair; Steve Song, James Panosh

Winifred Nnakwe

Educational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *How did School Business Officials (SBOs), as district fiscal leaders maintain fiscal solvency following The Great Recession of 2008 in New York State (NYS) Public Schools?*

Dissertation Committee: Craig Schilling, Chair; Daniel Smith, David Bein

Rookmattie Samaroo

Reading, Language & Literacy

Dissertation Title: *A Case Study of Teachers' Experiences in Vertical Professional Learning Communities (VPLCs): Focused on Building Teachers' Capacity in Nonfiction Reading Across Grades K-2*

Dissertation Committee: Kari Pawl, Chair; Angela Tagaris, Sandra Doering

Fritzy Sannon-Brown

Educational Leadership

Dissertation Title: *Principal Turnover and Retention: A Study of Urban K-12 School Principals and Accountability*

Dissertation Committee: Alison Clark, Chair; Tamara Korenman, Mary Zaharis

Julie Taylor

Curriculum & Instruction

Dissertation Title: *Exploring Teacher Perspectives on the Impact of the Next Step Guided Reading Approach to Literacy Instruction: A Case Study*

Dissertation Committee: William Spears, Chair; Daniel Smith, Arthur Safer

The Academic Regalia

THE GOWN: The flowing gown comes from the 12th century. While originally it may have been worn as protection against the cold of unheated buildings, today it has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it covers any dress of rank or social standing. Typically black for all degrees, the gown has full-bell, double sleeves for doctoral degrees. The gown for the doctoral degree is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves, in the color distinctive of the faculty or discipline to which the degree pertains. Some gowns for doctoral degrees are in a color distinctive to the degree-granting institution.

THE CAP: When Roman law freed the slave, he won the privilege of wearing a cap. The academic cap is a sign of freedom of scholarship and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. Old poetry records the cap of scholarship as square to symbolize the book. The tassel for those holding a doctoral degree may be gold or the color corresponding to the hood.

THE HOOD: The hood is trimmed with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the background of the primary color of the college. The color of the facing of the hood denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color of the lining designates the university or college from which the degree was granted.





CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

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AND DEANS**

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ROBERT WILHITE, EdD

*Dean, College of Graduate Studies
and Interim Dean, College of Education*



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